STATEMENT

by the Spokesperson on the release of OSCE SMM monitors

"We have learned with relief that the remaining 4 monitors of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine have been released yesterday in Eastern Ukraine. Friday's European Council Conclusions highlighted the release of hostages including all of the OSCE observers as one of four crucial steps to be undertaken by Monday 30 June.

We expect further hostages detained by illegal armed groups in Eastern Ukraine to be released without delay.

We take this opportunity to reiterate the EU’s firm support for the work already undertaken by the SMM as well as for the OSCE monitoring the implementation of President Poroshenko’s peace plan."

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